



CONNECTICUT SPA & POOL ASSOCIATION

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CONNECTICUT SWIMMING POOL BUILDER'S PROGRAM VOTING IN FAVOR OF S.B. NO. 863

I'M HERE TODAY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, FOR THE CONNECTICUT SPA & POOL ASSOCIATION (CONSPA). THE ASSOCIATION WAS FOUNDED IN 1967, AND I WAS ITS FIRST PRESIDENT. OUR ASSOCIATION HAS APPROXIMATELY 150 MEMBERS. THEY INCLUDE BUILDERS, SERVICE, DISTRIBUTORS, AND MANUFACTURERS. WE EMPLOY APPROXIMATELY 2000 EMPLOYEES, AND INCREASE THAT TO 5000, IN-SEASON.

WHILE WE APPRECIATE THE COMMITTEE RAISING **S.B. NO. 863** FOR US, WE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST SOME CHANGES BE MADE TO ITS CURRENT FORM AND WE ARE SUBMITTING THEM TO YOU TODAY.

THERE ARE **2** VERY IMPORTANT REASONS WHY WE WANT A
"SWIMMING POOL BUILDER'S LICENSE".

THE FIRST: THE CITIZENS OF CONNECTICUT UNDERSTAND THAT MASTER PLUMBERS AND MASTER ELECTRICIANS ARE WELL TRAINED IN THEIR TRADE. BY HIRING THESE LICENSED PROFESSIONALS, THE CONSUMERS KNOW THAT THESE PEOPLE HAVE REACHED A HIGHER LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND CAN BE TRUSTED TO DELIVER A GOOD PRODUCT. THEY CAN ALSO FEEL SAFE KNOWING THAT THERE'S CONTINUAL EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE GETTING THE VERY BEST OF PRODUCTS.

OUR PROBLEM IS, ANYBODY WHO CAN AFFORD TO PURCHASE A **HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR'S (HIC) REGISTRATION**, IS AUTOMATICALLY CONSIDERED A SWIMMING POOL CONTRACTOR.

THERE IS NO MEASURE OF EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, OR THE EXPERTISE THEY MAY PRESENT ABOUT THEMSELVES. THIS NEW PROPOSED LICENSE WILL ALLOW THE CONSUMERS; TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE HIRING SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN EDUCATED AND LICENSED IN THEIR TRADE AND HAVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR INDUSTRY IS GUARANTEED.

THE SECOND AND MORE IMPORTANT REASON IS **SAFETY**. PROPER EDUCATION IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE CONSUMER SO THAT THEY WILL ENJOY THE PLEASURES AND HEALTH ASPECTS OF USING A SWIMMING POOL. THE CONSUMER WILL BE ABLE TO FEEL SECURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE POOL WAS BUILT CORRECTLY AND SAFELY BY A LICENSED CONTRACTOR. THE LICENSE WILL PROVIDE FOR CONTINUAL EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A TRAGIC ACCIDENT IN GREENWICH, WHERE A CHILD LOST HIS LIFE. BY PASSING THIS BILL, WE CAN GUARANTEE THE CONNECTICUT CITIZENS THAT A "LICENSED SWIMMING POOL BUILDER" HAS BEEN PROPERLY TRAINED AND EDUCATED AND WILL HELP TO PREVENT THIS FROM EVER HAPPENING AGAIN.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY,

ALBERT RIZZO
CHAIRMAN
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE
CONNECTICUT SPA & POOL ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 24, 2011